

REMARKS

The Applicant first wants to confirm the election of Group I, claims 1-16, for prosecution at this time. Non-elected claims 17-20 have been cancelled.

In the Action, claims 1, 3-5 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sasaki et al. patent (U.S. No. 5,500,166). In addition, claims 2, 6-8 and 12-16 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki et al. in view of the Kreuttner patent (U.S. No. 4,447,372).

By this Amendment, the claims have been revised to further define the Applicant's invention and to further distinguish it from the prior art. More specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended in several ways and claims 2, 4-5 and 12-16 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is the only independent claim remaining in the case. It is submitted that none of the references cited by the Examiner, whether taken individually or in any permissible combination, disclose or suggest the Applicant's invention as defined in claim 1 or in any of the remaining dependent claims (claims 3 and 6-11).

The Applicant's invention has particular use in molding door panels and other plastic component parts for automobiles and other vehicles. With production vehicles where it is important to reduce weight and cost, the present invention is extremely useful and beneficial. For the molding of door panels, for example, the thickness of more than 50% of the surface area can be reduced in thickness. It is significant, however, to retain the original part thickness in one or more areas in order to support the mounting of accessory items, such as door handles, arm rests, etc.

It is also important to reduce knit lines in the plastic molded parts because knit lines can be points of weakness and often the causes of failure of the parts. By squeezing the short shot of plastic material with one or more piston members, the plastic material is forced into all areas of the mold cavity without the formation of knit lines.

Neither the Sasaki or Kreuttner references disclose or suggest all of the processing steps as set forth in amended claim 1, or recognize the significant beneficial results

achieved thereby. Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 as amended should be allowed, together with claims 3 and 6-11 which are dependent from claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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